

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a stimulation device, comprising:  
placing an implantable pulse generator in an activated mode using an external programming device; and

sending a program-selection signal to the implantable pulse generator by the external programming device, wherein the implantable pulse generator stores at least two treatment protocol programs, each treatment protocol program being associated with at least one stimulation setting, and at least one of the programs being associated with a plurality of stimulation settings with each stimulation setting defining at least an independent electrode configuration;

thereafter controlling the operation of the implantable pulse generator by the external programming device.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising delivering a power signal to the implantable pulse generator by the external programming device.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the external programming device communicates with the implantable pulse generator using a radio-frequency signal.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the external programming device can control the pulse amplitude parameters of the pulses generated by the implantable pulse generator.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the program selection signal designates which of the treatment protocol programs is to be executed by the implantable pulse generator.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the external programming device is operated by a patient in whom the implantable pulse generator is implanted.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a stimulation device, comprising:  
placing an implantable pulse generator in an activated mode using an external programming device when the implantable pulse generator is implanted within a patient and the external programming device is operated by a user, wherein the implantable pulse generator stores multiple stimulation programs with ~~each~~ at least one stimulation program comprising ~~one or several~~ a plurality of stimulation sets, wherein each stimulation set defines at least one pulse parameter and an electrode configuration comprising multiple electrode polarities;

sending a program-selection signal to the implantable pulse generator by the external programming device using wireless communications, the program-selection signal identifying a stimulation program stored in the implantable pulse generator that comprises a plurality of stimulation sets, wherein the sending does not communicate data defining ~~one or several~~ stimulation sets of the selected stimulation program to the implantable pulse generator; and

in response to the program-selection signal, generating and delivering electrical pulses by the implantable pulse generator as defined by the parameters of the one or several stimulation sets of the selected stimulation program, wherein the implantable pulse generator alternates generation and delivery of pulses according to the stimulation sets of the selected stimulation program.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising delivering a power signal to the implantable pulse generator by the external programming device.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the external programming device communicates with the implantable pulse generator using a radio-frequency signal.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the external programming device can control the pulse amplitude parameters of the pulses generated by the implantable pulse generator.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the program selection signal designates which of the treatment protocol programs is to be executed by the implantable pulse generator.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the external programming device is operated by a patient in whom the implantable pulse generator is implanted.